



Planning for the Flight 93 National Memorial



View From the Temporary Memorial to the Crash Site

To our fellow Americans and interested citizens of the world:

The events of September 11th, 2001, had a profound and immediate impact on all our lives. Our world has changed forever. It was a terrible tragedy—the worst incident of domestic terrorism on our nation’s history. The coordinated hijacking of four commercial airliners, the use of innocent civilians in suicide bombings, the planned attack on symbolic targets, the horrific loss of life, were all tragic and stunning events. But the response of those involved to the challenges of that day was awe-inspiring and memorable.

September 11th was a day of countless stories—some poignant and tragic, some patriotic and inspiring—all meaningful and significant. Some of the stories of that day are shared in common among the citizens of New York, Washington and Shanksville. Others are unique to each incident. The stories of the heroes of United Flight 93 are stories of courage and compassion, sacrifice and selflessness, patriotism and love. Americans made their first stand against terrorism in the skies over southwestern Pennsylvania. While they did not succeed in capturing the terrorists, they did succeed in thwarting an attack on our nation’s capital. Their fight for freedom inspired the nation and the world, and restored a sense of hope to what could have otherwise been a day of unrelenting tragedy. They seized the initiative from our adversaries and changed the momentum of events on that terrible day. Their stories will never be fully revealed, but we do know enough to recognize that honor is due. Their heroism is now part of the fabric of our national memory.

People are drawn to the crash site for many reasons. Some come to grieve and reflect, others to honor and remember, still others to learn and be inspired. But they do and will continue to come to the site to pay tribute, to learn, to reflect and to be inspired.

The citizens of the United States, through their elected representatives, have determined that there should be a national memorial at the site and that the process for planning the site would be informed, thoughtful, inclusive and consensus-based. It will involve an unprecedented collaboration of surviving family members and loved ones, local community residents and other concerned citizens in partnership with the National Park Service.

We have the sacred challenge of planning an appropriate memorial to remember and honor the heroes of Flight 93. This newsletter is the beginning of a national dialogue on how best to perform that solemn task. We ask you to search your hearts and minds to help us to identify how best to memorialize this event. Memorialization is a complex task, which involves identifying the ideas and stories that need to be preserved and interpreted, and then planning a memorial and site that reflects those ideas. Please take the time to consider the questions in the enclosed comment form and respond from your heart.

The noted historian, Arnold Toynbee, once remarked that all of human history could be explained by the formula of “Challenge—Response.” The heroes of September 11th have taught us that when freedom-loving men and women are challenged, they respond with spontaneous acts of teamwork, courage, selfless sacrifice and heroism. We are now challenged by our responsibility to do honor to the memory and sacrifice of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93. We hope that their high standard of response will provide inspiration for all of us.

Lawrence R. Catuzzi, Co-Chairman, Flight 93 Memorial Task Force

Hon. Kim R. Gibson, Co-Chairman, Flight 93 Memorial Task Force

Jennifer Price, President, Families of Flight 93, Inc.

Joanne M. Hanley, Superintendent, Flight 93 National Memorial



Hemlock Grove at the Crash Site

Look inside. . .

Partners in Building the Flight 93 National Memorial . .	2
The Story of a Landscape	2
The Planning Process and Timeline	2
The Task Before Us	3
The Temporary Memorial and the Ambassadors	3
Conserving Artifacts and Sharing Your Story	3
New Project Office to Open in Somerset	3
Directions to the Temporary Memorial	Back Cover
Ways You Can Get Involved	Back Cover
Comment Form	Insert



PARTNERS IN BUILDING THE FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The **Flight 93 Advisory Commission** is comprised of fifteen members, including family members, local residents and officials, national figures, and the Director of the National Park Service. Public Law 107- 226 established the Commission as the legislated body with the authority to prepare “a report containing recommendations for the planning, design, construction, and long- term management of a permanent memorial at the crash site.” The report is due to the Secretary of the Interior and Congress by September 2005. It is anticipated that the Secretary will swear in the Commission nominees in the late summer/early fall of this year.

The **Flight 93 Memorial Task Force** provides a voice for all interested and concerned parties in planning and designing the memorial. The Task Force nominated members for the Flight 93 Advisory Commission and serves as the Commission's operational arm. The Task Force's approximately 80 – 90 members include family members, community members, first responders, educators, and other local, regional, and national stakeholders. This working group will provide all of the information and proposals necessary for the Advisory Commission to make its recommendations to the Secretary and Congress.

The Families of Flight 93, Inc. is a private non-profit 501(C) 3 organization established to assist in developing

and sustaining a permanent memorial to the crew and passengers of United Airlines Flight 93.

The **National Park Service** is involved in all aspects of the planning and design of the memorial and will administer the Flight 93 National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System. The National Park Service will be the agency under which the Advisory Commission will operate.

All the partners would like to acknowledge the continued support they have received from Somerset County, Stonycreek Township and the Borough of Shanksville.

THE STORY OF A LANDSCAPE

One of the most powerful elements of the Flight 93 story is the rural Pennsylvania landscape where the plane crashed. This landscape of small communities, rolling farmlands, and wooded hills is the setting for experiencing and understanding the events of that day.

To connect the story of Flight 93 to this landscape, the Flight 93 Task Force created a Resource Assessment Committee. Some of the committee's initial work was to identify important features of the landscape that are necessary for understanding the story. Some of these features include: the impact site; the surrounding areas including a cathedral grove of hemlocks; and a natural bowl or basin in the topography that surrounds the impact site.

The committee also acknowledged the importance of two draglines, large crane- like machinery from the former strip mining operation, that sit high above the impact site

and give visitors a vantage point for understanding the relationship between the flight path, the surrounding area, and the impact site. The draglines are also an effective tool for interpreting the story of this western Pennsylvania landscape.

The committee continues to gather input from air traffic control records, the flight recorder information, phone records and first person accounts of phone conversations with passengers to further understand the role of the landscape in appreciating the story of Flight 93.

The committee's work will also guide recommendations for a memorial boundary (for the new national park site) that will protect important features of the landscape, provide for visitor needs, and minimize impacts on neighboring communities.

The Task Force is focusing its attention on the following in order of importance:

- The impact site and the immediate surrounding areas
- “The bowl” including the temporary memorial
- The strip- mining draglines, the surrounding hilltops and the land that provides access to the site from US Route 30
- The viewshed of the area

The Task Force, National Park Service, and Conservation Fund continue to work closely with local landowners, Stonycreek Township, the County of Somerset, and other partners to ensure that the important elements of the landscape are protected, that local planning is conducted to secure an appropriate setting for the national memorial, and that the impact on area residents is minimized.

THE PLANNING PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

We have a unique opportunity before us. Congress has given us the chance to plan and design a new national memorial – a national park dedicated to the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93. Our charge is to develop recommendations for the planning, design, construction, and management of the memorial and to submit those recommendations to the Secretary of Interior and Congress by September 2005. To complete this important task, we have laid out a planning process that we feel meets the needs of the four partners (Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, Flight 93 Advisory Commission, Families of Flight 93, Inc., and the National Park Service) and provides many and varied opportunities for the public to participate.

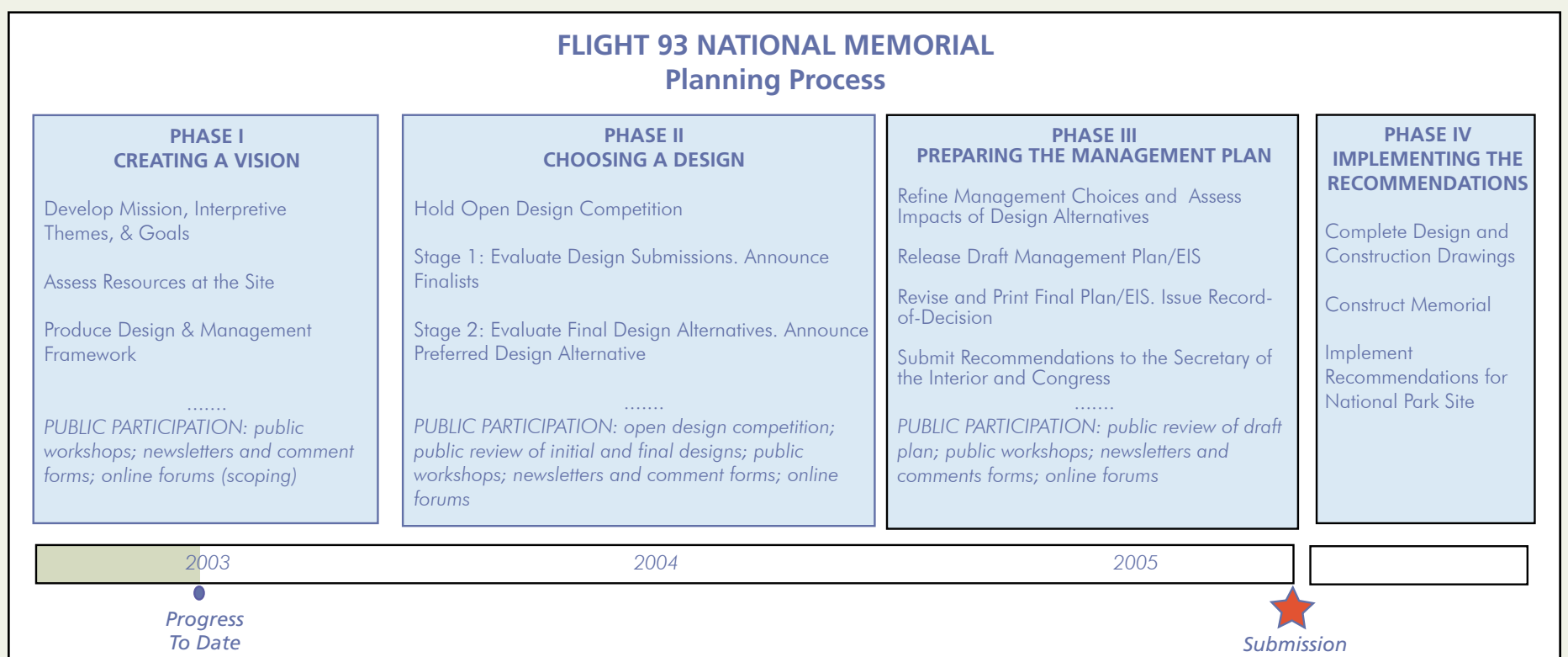
In Phase 1, we will seek an understanding of the meaning of the memorial and explore the ideas that we want to

convey to visitors. We will also assess the resources at the site and establish goals for the design and management of the memorial. In Phase 2, we will hold a formal design competition, which will be open to everyone. Designs will be solicited for not only a memorial structure, but for the entire national park site. In Phase 3, we will develop a general management plan to guide long- term decisions about the memorial. At the conclusion of Phase 3, we will present the recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress. In Phase 4 we will construct the memorial – which will be financed through a combination of public and private funds – and begin implementing the recommendations for the national park site.

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the proj-

ect. The EIS will help us all understand the potential impacts of the design alternatives on the site as well as neighboring communities. The EIS will also document the decisions made throughout the project and ensure that the process is open to everyone. This first newsletter is part of the scoping phase of the project. The formal scoping period runs from now through November 15, 2003.

You will have many opportunities to provide us with your ideas – through the comment form in this newsletter, at public workshops in October and November, and in online forums. Additional information about the workshops will be mailed out in the coming months and remember to check our web page at www.flight93memorialproject.org for the latest information.



THE TASK BEFORE US

I first traveled to Shanksville for the December 2001 town meeting joining two friends from Oklahoma City, Robert Johnson, who chaired the task force and memorial foundation, and family member Phillip Thompson. Some months later I returned for a more extended visit. Having had an opportunity to walk the site, I continue to be moved by its power. What does it mean to call a place “sacred ground?” Do you freeze it in time, through preservation or creation of a memorial environment? How do you allow the public to engage the site without violating strongly held convictions about zones of personal intimacy for family members at what is, in essence, a grave site? How do you deal with powerfully contending impulses rooted in the culture of the area: a fear of commercialization and also a distaste for zoning regulations?

In Oklahoma City, the task force made an unwavering commitment to the primacy of family members and survivors. The memorial could not be done only by them, but it would not be done without them. Through several years of very, very difficult work, family members, survivors, civic- minded members of the community, design and museum professionals learned to work and trust one another. They learned to listen, and they learned patience.

Family members did not speak with one voice, of course. Many of them decided to participate only because they were deeply invested in a particular design. From the beginning, the danger of a balkanized group fighting over competing designs was evident, so the task force began by learning about the purposes of memorialization, and created a mission statement that guided their work.

Phillip Thompson summed up well people’s journey through the process: “we have moved from a desire to see our loved ones memorialized in stone to a larger vision of



Flight 93 Task Force Workshop

what a memorial is and what it does. We moved from unfocused emotion to reflections on what it means to us, and from ‘what do I want’ to ‘what do we want to give as a gift to the world?’”

While the Oklahoma City National Memorial focuses on the faces, names, and stories of those murdered on April 19, 1995, those involved in its creation established links with others seared by violence. For example, bonds of affection brought family members and survivors to the West African nation of Cameroon to meet survivors of a horrendous 1986 disaster. In return, eight Cameroonian survivors visited Oklahoma City. Family members also reached out to Kenyans who lost loved ones in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi in 1998, and of course, family members and survivors have established links with those impacted directly by the horrors of September 11. I believe that this memorial—whatever form it takes—must be rooted in this particular event, in this particular

landscape. We remember first *these* dead in *this* place, from which linkages can be extended. And for me, a “living memorial” that is doing its work is one that does not pretend to resolve, to answer questions, but invites visitors to a deeper, more profound struggle, and is one that asks visitors to do their own remembering through their engagement with the site.

Is it possible that in addition to being a site of mourning, a site of remembrance, this place might move visitors to think about so many other victims of terrorist violence? The photographs of the missing in Manhattan after September 11 reminded the Chilean writer Ariel Dorfman of his nation’s mourning mothers, holding up photographs of husbands, brothers, sons, tortured and murdered. “I would like to think,” he writes, “that a global tragedy such as we are now living might...guide us toward a new global compassion and identification between peoples that has been sadly lacking. I hope and pray in the years to come we can find ways of globalizing mercy and understanding with as much efficiency and energy as we have put into the globalization of war and violence.”

Perhaps our journey can indeed lead us to a message that will honor the dead and remind us of what Lincoln once called the “better angels of our nature.” If so, it will be a memorial of enduring significance and creative possibility long after our passing.

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh historian and writer Edward Linenthal is a member of the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force. Dr. Linenthal’s edited remarks are from the first meeting of the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, Shanksville, PA, March 1, 2003.



Visitors and an Ambassador at the Temporary Memorial

THE FLIGHT 93 TEMPORARY MEMORIAL AND THE AMBASSADORS

Even before the investigation into the crash of Flight 93 ended, visitors from around the world began arriving in Stonycreek Township, Somerset County to see the place where the plane’s path ended in a grassy field at the edge of a hemlock grove. Realizing the public’s need to visit here, to grieve, to search for understanding, local officials created a temporary memorial on a privately owned hill-top overlooking the crash site. At the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial, established in October 2001, visitors may gaze over the landscape, visually following the flight path of the plane to the impact site that is now planted with grass and enclosed by a fence. It is estimated that over 200,000 visitors have come to this temporary memorial.

Because many visitors to the site have questions about the events of September 11, 2001, a corps of local residents organized in January 2002 to staff the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial. These 40 volunteers, known as “Ambassadors”,

have familiarized themselves with the facts surrounding the incident, and are ready to answer questions, give driving directions, and most importantly, provide a human point of contact to the thousands of visitors who continue to come to the site each week. At present, volunteers are at the site from 10 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Thursday, and from 10 AM to dusk on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Visitors to the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial also may view and contribute items to a 40- foot long section of fencing which has become a collage of flowers, flags, handwritten messages, artwork, and tributes of every description. The site, though not illuminated at night, is open to the public every day, all day, year- round. Improvements to the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial, including handicapped accessibility, a small shelter for volunteers and visitors, and interpretive signage are planned for 2004.

CONSERVING ARTIFACTS AND SHARING YOUR STORY

When the morning after September 11, 2001 dawned, people were already leaving tributes to the forty passengers and crew who lost their lives on Flight 93. The days and weeks following brought contributions of every type: flowers, handwritten messages, candles, religious objects, flags, flags, and more flags. It quickly became apparent to local officials that something needed to be done to save these honored treasures. The reaction and feelings of the American public and the international support this tragic event elicited needed to be recorded to tell the story to future generations.

The Somerset Historical Center was asked to care for the tributes until decisions could be made about their permanent disposition. In October 2001, the curator of the Center with the help of many volunteers began to visit the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial site every day, collecting all items when they were in danger of being destroyed by the weather. Since that time, nearly 10,000 items have

been collected, dried, cleaned, cataloged, input into a computer system, and prepared for storage.

The Flight 93 Memorial Collection will become an integral part of the Flight 93 National Memorial, and will ultimately be transferred to and cared for in perpetuity by the National Park Service. Dedicated volunteers and the Historical Center are committed to collect, document and preserve the inclusive memory of the events on September 11, 2001 and the events thereafter pertaining to Flight 93 and the nation’s response including the memorialization process. The purpose of the Flight 93 Memorial Collection will be to honor, memorialize, educate, and to tell the story of Flight 93.

As the nation’s permanent repository for the lasting memory of the accurate and complete story of the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93, those who knew them, and those whose lives were affected by the event,



Handmade tribute at the Temporary Memorial

stories are being solicited from as many people as possible. If you are interested in providing your story, please contact Barbara Black at the Somerset Historical Center, 10649 Somerset Pike, Somerset PA 15501, 814- 445- 6077, or c- bblack@state.pa.us.



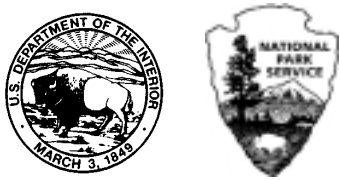
Tributes Left at the Temporary Memorial

NEW FLIGHT 93 N.M. PROJECT OFFICE TO OPEN IN SOMERSET

The Flight 93 National Memorial office will open its doors in Somerset, Pennsylvania early this fall. The office will serve as the headquarters for the planning effort over the next several years. It will also serve as the combined offices for the National Park Service, the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, the Families of Flight 93, Inc., and the soon to be announced Flight 93 Advisory Commission. This will allow the partners to work and communicate together on a daily basis. The office is in located in Newberry Place at 109 West Main Street, Suite 104.

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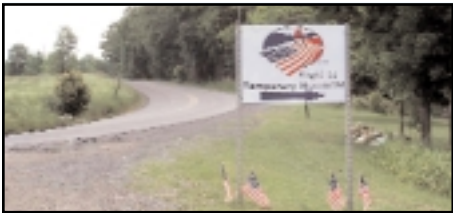
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Flight 93 National Memorial
Newsletter #1, September 2003



Panoramic View of the Crash Site and Adjacent Lands

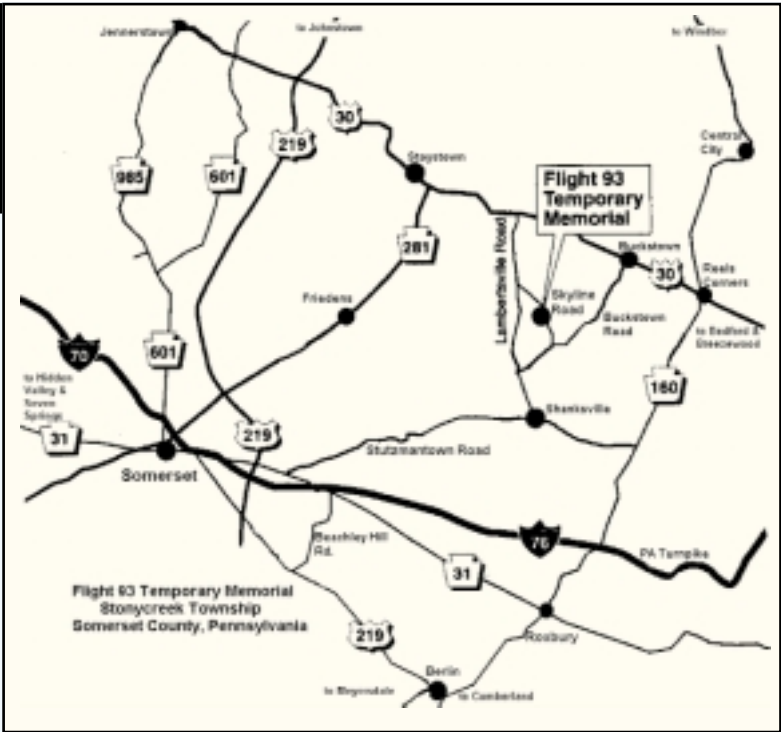
DIRECTIONS TO THE FLIGHT 93 TEMPORARY MEMORIAL



Driving Directions from Pennsylvania Turnpike- Exit 10/110 (Somerset, PA)

Take exit 10/110 (Somerset) on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Follow signs through Somerset to US 31 East. Watch for the red, white, and blue Flight 93 Temporary Memorial Site signs. Three miles out of Somerset make a left turn onto Stutzmantown Road and follow this winding road for 6.5 miles into Shanksville. At the stop sign turn left, cross the bridge, and continue straight to the first left. Turn left onto Lambertsville Road and follow to Skyline Road. Turn right onto Skyline Road and follow to the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial Site.

Detailed directions are available at www.flight93memorialproject.org and at the Pennsylvania Turnpike booth in Somerset.



WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- Complete the Comment Form in this newsletter (or the online version at www.flight93memorialproject.org) and mail it to us.
- Complete the address portion of the Comment Form and return it to us and we will make sure you receive future newsletters and comment forms.
- Participate in the public workshops or online forums that will be held throughout the project.
- Check our project website (www.flight93memorialproject.org) for the latest information.

Thank you for your interest in Flight 93 National Memorial!